

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 13, 2004

MEMORANDUMWhat's Inside

-Career Home  
Respite Care to  
Allow More  
Flexibility

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND  
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: POLICY CHANGE REGARDING CAREER RESPITE;  
[SECTION 4: OUT-OF-HOME CARE, CHAPTERS 11](#)  
[ATTACHEMENT A](#), AND [CHAPTER 17.7](#)

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to revise existing Career respite care policy as it relates to the time Career Foster Parents may use respite for the foster children in their home. According to current Children's Division policy, Career Foster Parents are encouraged to use respite care for all the children placed in their home, at the same time and frequency regardless of level of care as outlined in [Section 4.11.Attachment A](#). In order to better serve children, foster families, and respite providers, respite care will continue to be provided for all foster children in the CFP home at the same frequency, regardless of the foster child's level of care. However, respite care **no longer** has to be provided for all children in the CFP home at the same time. Career parents are now given the option to determine the actual time(s) to use respite, based on the individual needs of the child(ren) in their home. Allowing the family to decide which children will be provided respite on a particular day/weekend will be helpful, in that it will allow additional flexibility to meet the needs of the child. This change was based on feedback from the Northeast Region Foster Parent Advisory Board.

## NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. All comments and recommendations regarding this subject should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

FMS/VES/CW:js

Attachments